

JAN 29 2010

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO SET A REQUIRED MINIMUM NUMBER
OF INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS PER SCHOOL YEAR.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has experienced an unprecedented economic
2 downturn; and

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4 WHEREAS, state departments and agencies have implemented
5 across-the-board budget restrictions and other expenditure
6 reductions due to decreased revenue collections; and

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8 WHEREAS, state departments and agencies took a portion of
9 budget reductions through labor savings in the form of
10 furloughs; and

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12 WHEREAS, it is essential to minimize the number of furlough
13 days and ensure furloughs are implemented in a manner that will
14 have the least possible impact on public services; and

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16 WHEREAS, providing instruction and educational
17 opportunities to our children are the most vital and important
18 services offered by the Department of Education; and

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20 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's implementation of
21 furloughs has impacted students by reducing the number of
22 instructional days, from an average of 180 days per school year
23 to 163 days for the 2009-2010 school year and a similar decline
24 for school year 2010-2011; and

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26 WHEREAS, other states such as Washington, Rhode Island,
27 Maryland, Michigan, and Montana require by law a minimum number
28 of instructional days per school year; and

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30 WHEREAS, the education of Hawaii's children must be the top
31 priority of the Department of Education, even in times of
32 reduced revenues and dwindling resources; and

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WHEREAS, children in Hawaii's public schools need sufficient instructional time to engage in educational activities under the direction of a teacher in order to improve their grades, test scores, and other measures of academic achievement; and

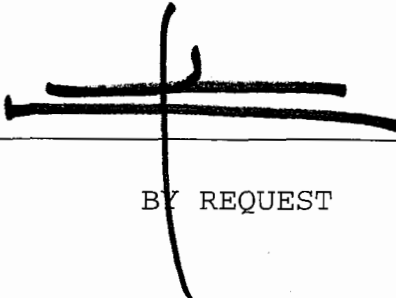
WHEREAS, setting a required minimum number of instructional days per school year will ensure that the educational opportunities of Hawaii's children are not compromised; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Education is urged to establish a minimum of 180 days of instructional time per school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature enact legislation to require a minimum of 180 days of instructional time per school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Board of Education, the Department of Education, the Charter School Administrative Office, the chair of the Senate committee that oversees education, and the chair of the House of Representatives committee that oversees education.

OFFERED BY:


BY REQUEST